



Matthew H. Kisber serves as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development (ECD). Appointed on January 18, 2003, Commissioner Kisber was charged by Governor Phil Bredesen with the goal of developing the infrastructure and resources of Tennessee communities and harnessing a business friendly atmosphere, while attracting new industries and assisting existing industries expand.

Prior to this appointment, Kisber served 10 consecutive terms in the Tennessee House of Representatives and as vice president of Business Development for First Tennessee Bank.

In the Tennessee General Assembly, Kisber served as chairman of the powerful Finance, Ways and Means Committee, which is responsible for the state's \$19.5 billion budget. He received state and national acclaim for his leadership, developing innovative solutions to a wide range of budgetary and business development challenges.

During his tenure at First Tennessee Bank, he was involved in recruiting new and expanding existing business relationships for the \$18 billion financial institution.

Kisber began his career as a successful small businessman in Jackson, Tenn. He was first exposed to business when he began working at Kisber's Department Stores, Inc., his family's business, at the age of 12. He went on to work as a photojournalist at the Jackson Sun, covering politics and other interests.

Kisber received his bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University and was one of 36 state legislators from 21 states to successfully complete the inaugural Program for Emerging Political Leaders at the Darden Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Virginia. In 1989, Kisber received a full scholarship from the Southern Legislative Conference to attend the Leadership Development Program conducted by the Center for Creative Leadership, and later that year was selected as one of 32 state leaders to a Toll Fellowship Program by the Council of State Governments.

In his current role as Commissioner of Tennessee Economic and Community Development, Commissioner Kisber has worked to strengthen partnerships both domestically and internationally. His keen focus on high-level customer service has proven successful when working with local governments, chambers and other economic development groups. Under the direction of Governor Bredesen and by

Executive Order, that customer service philosophy resulted in the formation of Tennessee's FastTrack program, which provides timely responses and services to companies seeking to make an investment in Tennessee. FastTrack has quickly become recognized as one of the top economic development initiatives.

Additionally, Commissioner Kisber leads the Governor's Jobs Cabinet team, which brings local officials, community leaders, state agencies and other entities with job creation responsibilities together to identify challenges and opportunities for economic and community growth.

Commissioner Kisber has further been successful in establishing the state's first director of technology development to begin leveraging Tennessee's technological resources to attract technology-based businesses and encourage entrepreneurial growth. His focused drive toward a thriving Tennessee economy is helping to equip Tennessee communities for economic success, today and tomorrow.

Kisber is also active in various civic and cultural causes, having served on the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Holocaust Commission, Tennessee Tomorrow, Inc., WestStar Leadership Program, Miss Tennessee Scholarship Pageant and the Tennessee State Museum Foundation.

Born January 31, 1960, Kisber and his wife Paige Lowe Kisber reside in Nashville with their son, Harrison and daughter, Katherine.

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